



Music Shabbaton

June 21-23

Past president David Stein and CSZ co-founder Daniel Chesir are celebrating their 60th birthdays. Actually, David's is May 18 and Daniel's is June 10 (so David is older). Read more intimate things about them in the "Daveners and Do'ers" column on page 8.

Ten years ago, in honor of their joint 50th birthdays, they established the Chesir-Stein Music fund which was originally to be used to underwrite the hiring of a musical consultant for the Ritual Committee and to provide professional music for the Shabbat morning service celebrating their birthdays in June, 1992. After these events, there was still some money left over and donations trickled in over the years, keeping the fund alive.

Now, in honor of their 60th, the Va'ad has re-committed to the fund as a permanent fund for the enhancement of the musical life of the congregation. Money will be used at the discretion of the rabbi and the Ritual Committee. And once again, in honor of their 60th, David and Daniel are underwriting a musical celebration at Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning services on June 21 and 22 and have invited Cantor Jonathan Comisar to come to CSZ to lead the festivities.

Jonathan was a member of CSZ for a number of years and the music he produced for us has remained one of the primary sources of music for our services. It is wonderful to be able to welcome him back to CSZ, now as a recent graduate of the School of Sacred Music in New York and the cantor of the Community Synagogue of Rye, New York.

Among the musicians and singers who will be participating are our talented members Robert Schwartz, Randy Weiss,

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Interested in Leading Services?

The Ritual Committee would like to invite CSZ members who are interested in exploring the possibility of leading services to attend an upcoming Ritual Committee meeting, or to contact Howard Steiermann, Ritual Committee chair, to learn more about what service leading entails. The Ritual Committee has an ongoing program of mentoring that pairs new leaders with more experienced service leaders. The Ritual Committee meets as a group on the last Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. Meetings are open to all and are a great way to learn more about our ritual history and minhag. Please call Howard Steiermann (415/695-9155) for more information, or just join us at the next meeting on June 27.

Thanks to Lea Salem



On May 8, Lea Salem stepped down from her post as administrator after nearly nine years at Sha'ar Zahav. The community said goodbye at a special Oneg Shabbat celebration on May 10, which was designated "Shabbat Lea."

Lea made her way here from New York, via Israel, where she lived for two years. She met her partner Lisa Ochs just six months after arriving in San Francisco, and came to Sha'ar Zahav on December 7, 1993. Rabbi Yoel Kahn, who would become Lea's mentor and friend, went on sabbatical a few

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CSZ Celebrates Pride

Come march in a Sha'ar Zahav
Pride Parade extravaganza!

When else will you have the chance to strut down Market Street wearing a Chanukah headband or Machberet handbag, throwing gelt, Tam Tams and candy slices to the masses? Help organize this year's Pride contingent by coming to our costume and sign-making fiesta on **Thursday, June 20, 6 - 9 pm** at CSZ. Can't be there on the twentieth, but want to march? No problem! Please contact Caryn Aviv (415/255-9732 or caryn.aviv@ucsfmedctr.org). The theme to this year's San Francisco Pride Parade is "Be Yourself, Change the World." Let's have a visible and fabulous CSZ group!

Pride Shabbat Wine and Cheese Reception

Please join your CSZ family and friends at 7 pm on **Friday, June 28** for a pre-Shabbat wine and cheese reception. This is an excellent opportunity to introduce your guests and friends to Sha'ar Zahav! Have a friend that's been wanting to check out CSZ? This is a great time to bring them too. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to kick off Pride weekend and Shabbat in style!

From the Rabbi



Camille Angel

Yasher koach Sha'ar Zahav! This June marks a major milestone in the cycle of our congregation's life. We begin our year-long 25th Anniversary celebration. Many thanks are due to every individual who has helped shape who we are today. Our founders, our sustainers, all those who show up to committee meetings, who chair task forces, who participate in myriad ways and who help us strive toward the highest standards of excellence. We are truly a community of gifts.

On that note, we say todah rabbah to Lea Salem for her gifts of service to this community. After nearly nine years as administrator of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, Lea is changing paths. She's becoming a member. Lea's tenure saw CSZ through growing pains, major transitions and strategic planning. Lea has been a devoted caretaker. She kept the integrity of our mission in front of her at all times and remained dedicated to the institution's well-being as well as to its members. Lea has been a trusted confidant and source of support to many in our congregation and she will be sorely missed in her role as administrator. Thankfully, she and her partner Lisa plan to remain an active part of our congregation, beloved for many years to come.

Personally, I have had the privilege of working closely with Lea during these first two years of my rabbinate at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. In a multitude of ways, Lea has helped me, my family and the congregation make the transition a smooth and successful one. We will always feel deep gratitude and appreciation to Lea for all that she has accomplished.

Hazak Hazak V'nithazeck! Be strong! Be strong! And let us continue to strengthen one another!

These last months have been filled with the blessings of new life in our community and, by glorious extension, the people Israel. Here at CSZ, seven babies have been born and at least five more are on the way. What an absurd and sad paradox that our brothers and sisters are suffering in the land of Israel. How many lives have been senselessly wiped out by violent acts of hatred and des

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From the Israel Committee

- The voices of pluralism win again -

Thank you to all who voted and helped in the World Zionist Congress elections. ARZA/World Union (Reform) won 42% of the vote and 61 of the 145 U.S. delegates. The Conservative Movement won 22%, followed by Orthodox Zionist Movement's 20% and 9 other political organizations making up the remaining 16%.

This is the Reform Movement's second consecutive victory at the Congress, with by far the largest showing of delegates. This will result in increased funding for the Reform Movement in Israel, increased political clout and a higher level of social and cultural acceptance of non-Orthodox Judaism. The Congress will take place in Jerusalem, June 17-21.

The Congress is the World Zionist Organization's legislative body. The Congress meets every four years in Jerusalem, determining policy, designating courses of action and electing leaders for the institutions and functionaries it supervises.

The structure of the World Zionist Congress and this "Parliament of the Jewish People" is very complex.....a veritable alphabet soup of Jewish organizations is involved. If any of you would like further information, you may contact Ron Lezell (rlezell@aol.com).

The 500 congressional delegates who are elected to represent Ideological Unions or political "Britot," are elected in each country and are divided as follows: 38% from Israel, 29% from the USA and 33% from the rest of the world. As no separate elections are held in Israel, representation to the Congress is on the basis of the political parties' relative strength in the Knesset.

- CSZ trip to Israel -

As this is written, our brothers and sisters in Israel are eagerly preparing to host the World Congress of LGBT Jewish Organizations and the attendant Israel Pride events, all scheduled for June 27-July 7. We've been assured that appropriate security measures will be in place. It's not too late to join in; contact Michael Sarid (msarid@earthlink.net) for further information.

- Next meeting -

Additional programming is in the works at CSZ, as the Israel Committee strives to enable all of us to deepen our community's connection to the people, culture, history and land of Israel. Please get involved. The next Israel Committee meeting will be Thursday, June 20, 6:30 pm at CSZ.

CSZ Introduces Torah Trope Classes

Join CSZ member Laura Lowe for two exciting Torah trope classes:

Mondays, June 3, 10 and 17, 7 - 8:30 pm

Haftorah Trope. This class is designed to teach Haftorah chanting to those who have some experience with basic trope.

Mondays, July 8, 15 and 22, 7 - 8:30 pm

High Holiday Trope. Learn to chant High Holiday trope just in time for 5763!

For both classes, some experience with Torah trope is necessary. For more information, please phone Laura Lowe (415/247-2409) or contact Melanie Kushnir (415/861-6932 ext. 305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org). Cost for members is \$18 for either class, \$36 for both classes. Cost for non-members is \$36 for either class, \$72 for both.

How To Say Good-Bye?



Lisa Katz

How do we say good-bye to Lea Salem as she leaves CSZ as our synagogue administrator? How do we compress into a few words the feelings and emotions surrounding nearly a decade of the dedication and love Lea has brought to Sha'ar Zahav? How do we express our gratitude for the extra hours, days, weeks and months of Lea's time, far above and beyond her employment obligations, unstintingly given by her to us? How do we give thanks, when merely saying "thank you" can only be a whisper of our true gratitude?

The answers cannot come just from me, as president, or from the rabbi, or from our lay leaders and committee chairs. Every member of Sha'ar Zahav has, at one time or another, been affected — sometimes profoundly — by the love, talent and devotion with which Lea Salem has imbued her role as our administrator: Did Lea get word to you of an event that she knew you wanted to attend? Did she assume responsibility for an unmet need when no one else showed up to do the work? Did she direct your question to the person who could give you the answer you urgently needed? Did she postpone her routine duties, perhaps to be done later on her own time, to respond to a crisis affecting you or a loved one? Did she listen when you spoke? Did she hear and understand what you needed?

The answers to these questions reflect proudly on Lea, and through her, on Sha'ar Zahav itself. A synagogue becomes a beacon to the community and, occasionally, to the nation, through the individuals who give it strength and character. Lea Salem is without a doubt one of the individuals who has held the light, and caused Sha'ar Zahav to be the wonderful congregation and home that it is.

A pronouncement of thanks in this presidential column is simply inadequate, and fails to answer the question of how to say good-bye. Fortunately, because Lea and her partner Lisa are staying on with us as members of our congregational family, the occasion of saying good-bye

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Rebuilding Together: Shar'ar Zahavniks Do a Facelift

On April 28, a team of volunteers from Congregation Sha'ar Zahav joined 252,000 other Rebuilding Together volunteers around the country working to repair and improve the homes of elderly, disabled or low-income residents. Sleepy-eyed volunteers began arriving at 8 am. Over coffee and bagels we formed work groups, made plans and began our work of making the home of Rose, a single grandmother, safer and more comfortable. The energy continued to grow throughout the morning as more volunteers arrived and as our sense of competence and purpose increased. The delight and gratitude of the homeowner as she watched her house being transformed fueled the enthusiasm of the team. By the time we broke for a beautiful lunch donated by Le Mediterranee, we were all enjoying the feeling of community and the awareness that we were involved in a worthwhile endeavor.

The workday concluded on schedule at 4 pm. The changes to the house were significant and obvious. We could leave with the certainty that we

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Pre-Shabbat Welcome Dinner

Friday, June 21
Nirvana (544 Castro St at 18th St.)
Meet at CSZ at 6:15 pm or
at Nirvana at 6:30 pm.



The timeless advice column, a Bintel Brief, set the down-to-earth tone that was the *Jewish Daily Forward's* hallmark. In this tradition, we present a smart and savvy solution to those seeking a greater sense of community and connection to the CSZ community.

Dear Kesherim:

I want to attend CSZ's welcome dinner on June 21 at Nirvana (544 Castro St. at 18th St.). Out of the blue, however, I was invited on a date. Ordinarily I would invite my date along but I'm not sure he'd fit in. I'm tempted to go on the date, but feel guilty about missing this special dinner. What would you do?

Sincerely,
Confused in San Francisco

Dear CSF:

Go to the dinner and bring your date!

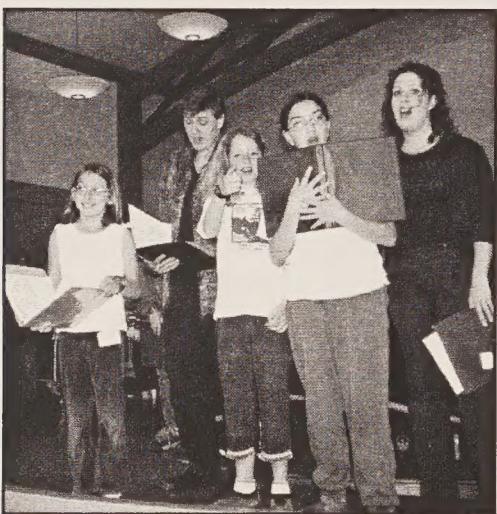
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a warm and welcoming place. The Kesher and Membership Committees make the conversation and gathering comfortable for everyone. I would give your date the benefit of the doubt; the Shabbat spirit brings out the best in the individual. Our services make Judaism accessible to everyone. So, stop fretting and start fressing (eating).

Please RSVP to Darah Wallsten (415/584-2706, darahe@aol.com), Marc Wernick (415/928-7883, mhwernick@aol.com) or the office (415/861-6932, office@shaarzahav.org).

L'dor Vador



During Shabbat morning services on May 4, we had the unique and wonderful experience of seeing many generations of CSZ members on the bimah. Our Kadimah students, along with service leaders Alan Gordon and Randy Weiss, our teen madrachim, our b'nei mitzvah students and the Kadimah teachers, led us in song, prayer and Torah study. They also helped us welcome into our community Rabbi Angel and Karen Segal's baby daughter, Lilah Rose. The congregation that morning was a true example of Jewish learning and prayer shared from generation to generation.



Photos by Sue Bojdak

Pinat Yeladim Umishpachah

Children and Family Corner



Share Your Family Pride! March with CSZ in This Year's Pride Parade

Sunday, June 30

We are changing the face of American families and of the Jewish community. Now is our chance to share our families and to celebrate them as we march our way down Market Street. Be LGBT. Be Jewish. Be family. Be beautiful. Contact Caryn Aviv (caryn.aviv@ucsfmedctr.org) to join our contingent.

Baby/Tot Summer Gatherings

It's time for wee ones to frolic in the sun. If you are interested in attending or hosting a Shabbat dinner or picnic this summer for baby and/or tot families, please contact Sue Bojdak.

Contact Sue Bojdak, Director of Family and Children's Education
(415/861-6932 x 302 or educator@shaarzahav.org)
for more information about any of these programs or to RSVP.

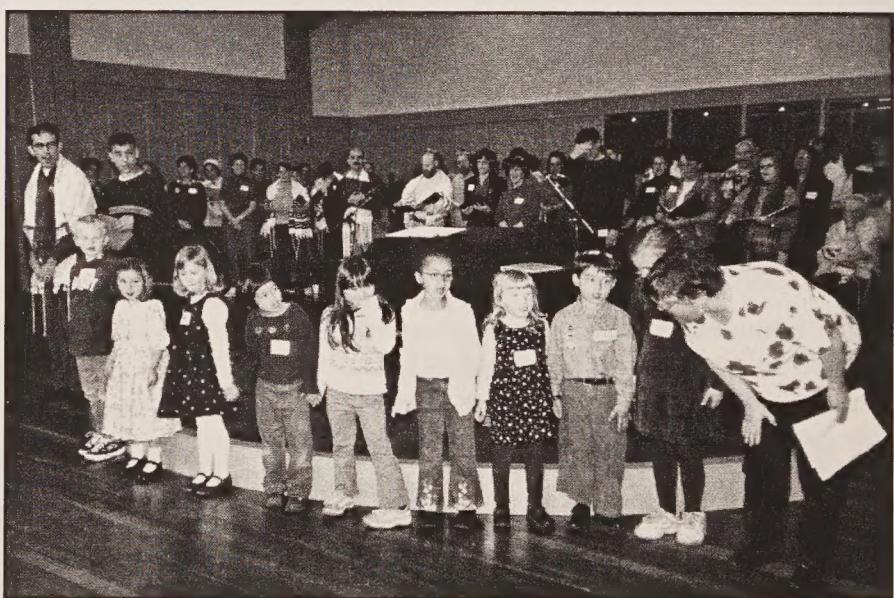
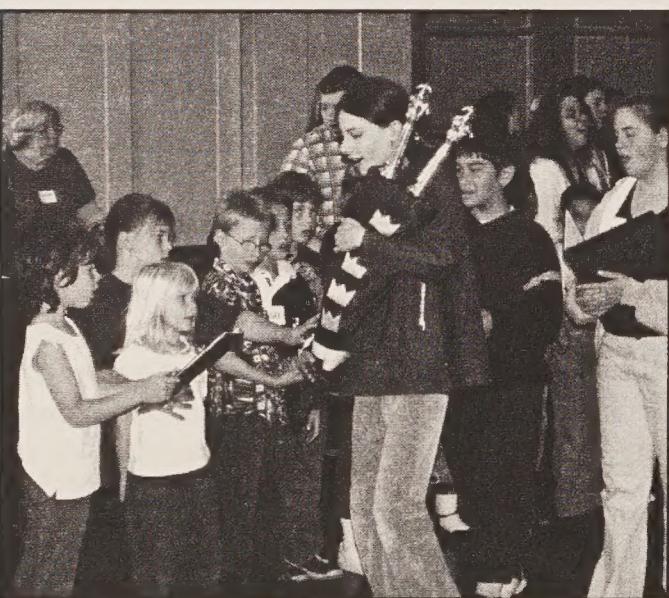
Looking for Babies

Interested in gathering with other parents of wee ones? The Education Office is interested in hearing from you. Tell us if you're interested in an informal monthly gathering with other parents of kids up to age two, if you have ideas for meeting and if you would like to help organize the effort. Please contact Sue Bojdak to express your interest and share your thoughts.

Todah Rabah Morim

Many thanks to this year's fabulous teaching staff, which included Ila Cherney, Irit Gafni-Pinchovski, Jen Levinson, Phyllis Mintzer, Micah Morris, Melissa Packer and Rebecca Weiner. Special thanks and appreciation goes to Jeni Markowitz, who has served us these many years as a classroom teacher and brought us into the world of Family Education. Your service to our community has been a blessing. Thanks and praise also goes to our talented teen madrichim, Benjie Achtenberg, Ruby Cymrot-Wu, Annie Downs, Shmulik Fishman and Josh Shuster-Lefkowitz. Thank you all for creating a learning community with the children and parents of Sha'ar Zahav.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

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Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: Attention Forward advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

June 2002, Volume 25, Issue 10.



Be a Part of the Kadimah Summer Read-a-thon —

Help inspire our children to continue their Jewish learning all summer long and raise money for Kadimah at the same time. How? By sponsoring a child in the Kadimah Summer Read-a-thon. Here's how it works. At the beginning of the summer you pledge a certain amount of money (you choose) for each Jewish book that child reads this summer. S/he gets busy reading and keeps a record of all the books s/he has read. At the end of the summer, we tally up each child's total and they collect your donations. They've read. You've donated. Kadimah has benefited. Need a Kadimah child to sponsor? Contact Sue in the Education Office and she'll match you with a student.

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June 2002-Sivan/Tammuz 5762

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

East Bay Services

Friday, June 21, 8:15 pm

Shabbat Services

Jeanette Nichols
3865 Forrest Hill Ave., Oakland

510/531-4885

JULY/AUGUST DEADLINES

ARTICLES

Please submit your articles as a Word attachment file to kschiller@igc.org. No late submissions will be accepted.

2	22 Sivan	3	23 Sivan	4	24 Sivan	5
• 4 pm -	Healing Service	• 7 pm -	Beit Midrash			• 7 pm -
		• 7 pm -	Haftorah Trope Class			JGF Edit
9	29 Sivan	10	30 Sivan	11	1 Tammuz	12
• 7 pm -	JGF Layout	• 6:30 pm	LRP			• 6:30 pm -
		• 7 pm -	Haftorah Trope Class			Building and Meeting
16	6 Tammuz	17	7 Tammuz	18	8 Tammuz	19
		• 7 pm -	Kesher Committee	• 6:30 pm -	Israel/Palestine	
		• 7 pm -	Haftorah Trope Class		Dialogue	
CSZ FAMILY RETREAT						
23	13 Tammuz	24	14 Tammuz	25	15 Tammuz	26
CHESIR-STEIN MUSIC WEEKEND						
30	Gay Pride	20 Tammuz				

Please note that dates, times and locations sometimes get changed.

סיוון/תמוז התשס"ב

AY THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SHABBAT

LINE MONDAY, JUNE 3, AT 5 PM

ADVERTISING

a email to:
ed.

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	25 Sivan	6	26 Sivan	7	27 Sivan	8	Shabbat Shelah (Num 13:1-15:41)	28 Sivan	
rounds	• 6:30 pm - Va'ad Meeting	• 8:15 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Sarita Grotisser and Reuben Zellman	• 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Ron Edelman	2 Tammuz	13	3 Tammuz	14	4 Tammuz	15 Shabbat Korah (Num 16:1-18:32) 5 Tammuz
	• 6 pm - Pride Costume-Making Party • 6:30 pm - Israel Committee	• 8:15 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Patricia Lin and Randy Weiss	• 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Reuben Zellman	9 Tammuz	20	10 Tammuz	21	11 Tammuz	22 Shabbat Chukkat-Balak (Num 19:1-25:9) 12 Tammuz
	• 6:30 pm - Ritual Committee Meeting	• 7 pm - Pride wine and cheese reception • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Nathan Robinson • 8:18 pm - Candle Lighting	• 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Alan Gordon and Caryn Aviv	16 Tammuz	27	17 Tammuz	28	18 Tammuz	29 Shabbat Pinhas (Num 25:10-30:1) 19 Tammuz
									PRIDE WEEKEND

nged after the *Forward* is published. Call the office if you need updated information.



This month the *Jewish Gaily Forward* chats with founding member

Daniel Chesir and past president David Stein, a.k.a “the birthday boys.” Daniel and David will be celebrating their combined *hundert tsvantsik* (120th birthday - 60 years each). Yiddish folklore speaks about the magic of living to 120 and on Shabbat Chukkat-Balak (June 21-22), David and Daniel will be hosting a special musical Shabbat for the entire CSZ community to mark this milestone in their lives.

Interviewing David and Daniel is a bit like visiting with your tante (aunt) - wandering stories with rich side-bar anecdotes, lovely memories, warm laughter and even a smattering of gossip. So, have a cup of tea and a nice piece of fruit as we learn more about Messrs. Stein and Chesir.

David and Daniel have been long-standing leaders in the CSZ community. Daniel Chesir co-founded the synagogue “so that a nice Jewish boy could meet another nice Jewish boy and so that a nice Jewish girl could meet a nice Jewish girl.” Daniel led CSZ’s first service on Friday, July 8, 1977. Since that historical event, he has been an integral part of the legend and lore of Sha’ar Zahav: serving as a co-leader (“we couldn’t have a president, that was too hierarchical,” notes Daniel), sitting on the Ritual Committee before there was even a Ritual Committee, participating in each of the Rabbi Search Committees and assisting with the synagogue’s long-range planning committee. Daniel is soon to be the president of the Pacific Central West Council of the UAHC. Professionally, Daniel is a lawyer turned bureaucrat, employed by Kaiser in regulatory affairs. He lives in the Castro with his partner of more than 20 years, Stefan Rowniak. He plays a significant role in the lives of his two biological children. Daniel is one of a thousand voices in the San Francisco Choral Society. In two words, Daniel is both a macher (big shot) and a mensch. David joined Sha’ar Zahav in 1982 or as David marks time, “after Paul Cohen

was President, when Cheryl Orvis was in charge.” David moved to San Francisco in 1979 from Israel, where he was a linguistics professor, with his partner, Alex Ingersoll. “We didn’t join because we couldn’t afford the \$60 per year for dues. Finally, in 1982, Paul Cohen cornered us and we wrote the check.” Over the years, David organized events from the ridiculous to the sublime; he co-organized Megillah Madness I, II and III (and its various incarnations such as Polyester Megillah Madness) with Allan Berenstein, stage-star Allan Gold (as Esther) and the doyen of good-taste, Nancy Meyer. And he schlepped (dragged) 12 Oriental rugs to the JCC for a meditation service organized by Mike Rankin and Paul Cohen. David also served in many, many leadership roles. As synagogue president, he helped to create the vision and the team that made Mishkan Dolores a reality. David is a schmata (rag) salesman turned professional Jew. He was the executive director of the Holocaust Center of Northern California and is now the executive director of Congregation Beth-Israel Judea. David is also an avid symphony and opera fan. In a few words, David is a creative man and a visionary leader.

The *Forward* chatted with David and Daniel to learn more about their views on CSZ and the upcoming event at the synagogue on June 21 to mark their joint 60th birthdays.

Jewish Gaily Forward (JGF): What have you enjoyed the most about your involvement at CSZ?

Daniel Chesir (DC): CSZ is my baby. It

has grown up. I remember in 1985/86, sitting in shul realizing that we have indeed reached critical mass. I can breathe now. While our future is far from certain, I am very proud of what we have created.

David Stein (DS): I remember the meeting where we were discussing the Mishkan Dolores project trying to assess whether there was enough commitment to move ahead. And I remember walking out of the meeting, having raised \$180,000 in commitments, thinking, “We can do this!”

DC: You can’t take it (the process and the accomplishment of Mishkan Dolores) for granted.

Jewish Gaily Forward (JGF): How did you gentlemen decide on the idea of a joint 60th birthday event centered around music?

DC: It is a reprise of our 50th birthday celebration. Originally we were going to commission a piece to be composed when Paul Cohen pointed out, “What if the piece is bad?” So, we created the Chesir-Stein Music Fund.

DS: The music fund was intended to be an ongoing gift to the Ritual Committee so that music could enrich our services. People have continued to donate to the fund and it has been used to help support High Holiday Ensemble, piano rental for the High Holidays, and music consultation to the Ritual Committee.

DC: For our 60th birthdays, we are bringing Jonathan Comisar, a graduate of the School of Sacred Music of

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Inspired by David and Daniel? Want to help with building community at CSZ? Here is how you can help:

- Invite friends (and their kids) to an upcoming service or program.
- Reach out. Spend time with someone you don’t know at the next program or service you attend.
- Join a committee. Invite someone you don’t know to join a committee with you, or if you aren’t on a committee, find one you’re interested in joining.
- Extend a hand. Watch for new faces at the next service you attend. If someone is struggling to follow along, offer to help.

If you have suggestions for the “Daveners and Doers,” column, please contact Marc Wernick (415/928-7883, mhernick@aol.com).

CSZ's Second Annual Art Shabbaton

On April 19, 20 and 21, our synagogue was bursting at the seams with art. The building was filled with the sounds of prayer, music and creativity, emanating from every room in the building. The Shabbaton featured workshops on improv, poetry, Jewish cartooning, Klezmer music, Yiddish songs, kippot-crocheting, Semitic-story illustration, tzedakah boxes, abstract art and paper-cutting. The energy in the building was amazing! A special thanks to the three Art Shabbaton creators, Barbara Cymrot, Phyllis Mintzer and Jeanette Nichols, and to Marc Wernick and all the workshop leaders for making this event such a fabulous creative experience.



Photos by Melanie Kushnir



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GENE B. KAUFMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rabbi's Column

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peration? These months have been among the most tragic and depressing in Israel's history. It may seem like there is little we can do to make a difference at this critical time. And yet we must not turn away. We must be able to say to these, our children, to the next generations, with full conviction, that we did everything in our power to help our fellow Jews when they were endangered.

I want to bring to your attention one among hundreds of new initiatives launched in response to the situation. "One Family" is a non-denominational organization, which sees all of the Jewish people intimately connected as "one family." It provides direct and meaningful help to the Israeli families victimized in terror attacks since September 2000. To date, the fund has distributed more than \$850,000 to more than 400 families throughout Israel. One of the organization's programs is called "Project Embrace," which enables American groups (e.g. a synagogue) to "adopt" for one year an Israeli family victimized by the terror attacks and offer support to them financially, psychologically, and so on. What a meaningful way to offer succor to our mishpacha in Israel who have been devastated by these horrific attacks. For more information please go to: <http://www.walk4israel.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Home>.

This is but one suggestion. I am sure you have other ideas and initiatives, and I am very interested in hearing about them. No matter what your position, please bring your thoughts and feelings to our monthly discussion group addressing the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Let us hear from you.

Rosh Yeshiva of Hebrew Union College, Rabbi David Ellenson, offers this appeal: "Let us pray with all our hearts that somehow the logic of peace will prevail over the destructiveness of hate for both Israelis and Palestinians, speedily and in our day."

Let us bless the Source of Life, who sustains our spirits and gives us hope in the face of despair. Blessed is the One for the daily mystery of creation unfolding. Together, let us say, Amen.

Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street
415/861-6932 (voice); 415/861-6081 (fax)
Programming office, 415/575-4961
Education office, 415/575-4962
office@shaarzahav.org (email)
<http://www.shhaarzahav.org> (web)

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Director of Children's and Family Education
Sue Bojdak (x 302)
- educator@shaarzahav.org

Kadimah Head Teacher,
- Phyllis Mintzer

Administrative Assistant,
Sean Holcombe (x 304)
- sholcombe@shaarzahav.org

Rabbi's Assistant,
Gabby Volodarsky (x 310)
- gabbyv@shaarzahav.org

Officers:

President, Lisa Katz
(415/821-7746),
- llkatz1@juno.org or
- president@shaarzahav.org
Vice President, Arthur Slepian
Vice President, Jeffrey Sherman
Treasurer, Gail Ludwig
Recorder, Ray Bernstein

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David Gellman (ex officio)
Ben Bank
Howard Herman
Nancy Kates
Rose Katz
Laura Lowe
Ron Miguel
Drew Parker-Rose
Howard Steiermann
Ami Zusman

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain her or his number from the synagogue office.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education, Ron Edelman
Archives, open
Baby Havurah, open
Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, open
Book Group, Mark Mackler
Building and Grounds, Beth Sousa
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Children's Education Board, Ruthy Talansky
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Dor Rishon Brotherhood, open
Dues, Tiela Chalmers, Brian Jersky,
Laura Lowe
East Bay Havurah, Ida Kuluk
and Larry Wexler
Endowment Fund, David Stein
Finance, Gail Ludwig
Fine Arts, Barbara Cymrot
Fundraising, Arthur Slepian
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
Israel Committee, Ron Lezell
and Michal Goralsky
Kesher/Connection, Marianne Balin and
Geri Kahn
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Library, Bernard Schertzer
Long-Range Planning, Arthur Slepian and
Claudia Bernard
Membership Outreach, Tony Harris
Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign,
Deborah Udin
Music, Michael Sarid
Newsletter, Karen Schiller
- kschiller@igc.org
Past Presidents Council,
Diana Buchbinder
Personnel, Jeff Sherman
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
and Marc Wernick
Rabbi Liaison, Ora Prochovnick
Ritual, Howard Steiermann
Social Action, AJ Turpen, Craig Persiko,
Susan Lubeck
Singles Havurah, Marc Wernick
- mhwernick@aol.com
Toddler/Pre-school Havurah, open
UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin
UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir
WCGLBJO Liaison, David Gellman
Web and I.T., Geoff Benjamin
Women's Havurah, open

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.

Contributions

Adult Education Fund

Lin Turner
-in memory of Eli Weinstein.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Mike Rankin
-in memory of Judith Elman.

Chesir-Stein Music Fund

Steve Elman
-in memory of Judith Elman.

Randy Weiss
-in honor of Robert Schwartz's
50th birthday.

Children's Education Fund

Ami Zusman
-in honor of the birth of
Lilah Rose Angel.
-in honor of the birth of
Rami Harel Kripke-Ludwig.
-in honor of the birth of
Chava Orly Novogrosky-Godt.
-in honor of the birth of
Zoe Littauer Steele.

Ida Kuluk
-in honor of the birth of
Lilah Rose Angel.
-in honor of the birth of
Rami Harel Kripke-Ludwig.
-in honor of the birth of
Zoe Littauer Steele.

Alex Ingersoll and David Stein
-in memory of Judith Elman.

Manny Fishman and Leslie Kane
-in honor of Caryn Aviv's
becoming a Ph.D.

Batya Kalis
-in honor of Rami Harel
Kripke-Ludwig.

Richard Sinkoff
-in memory of Roslyn Sinkoff.

The Holiber/Warsaw Family
-in honor of the birth of
Chava Orly Novogrodsky-Godt.
-in honor of the birth of Asher
Gabriel and Zoe Rose Kapsack.
-in honor of Lea Salem.

Allan Berenstein
-in honor of the birth of
Lilah Rose Angel.

The Press-Becker Family
-in memory of Robert Becker.

*Thanks also to those whose
sponsorship helped make this year's
Art Shabbaton a success*

Batya Kalis.

Susan Tubbesing.

James Alexander.

Alex Ingersoll and David Stein.

Fund for the Future

Arthur Slepian.

General Fund

Jill and Aaron Katz and sons
-in memory of Judith Elman.

Paul Cohen and Bob Guterman

-in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's
75th birthday.
-in memory of Judith Elman.

Anna and Joshua Katz

-in honor of Lilah Rose Angel.

Alex Ingersoll and David Stein

-for the speedy recovery of
Mark Gershman.
-for the speedy recovery of
Ami Zusman.
-for the speedy recovery of
Sharyn Saslafsky.
-in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's
75th birthday.

Marc Lipschutz

-in memory of Judith Elman.

Richard Weiner and Susan Lubeck

-in memory of Judith Elman.

Jeff Sherman

-in memory of Revat and
Phil Sherman.

Sam Thal

-in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's
75th birthday.

Daniel Chesir

-in honor of Rami Harel
Kripke-Ludwig.

Stanley and Corinne James

-in memory of Judith Holiber.

Steve Elman

-in appreciation of
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Susan Unger

-in memory of Eli Weinstein.

Avraham Giannini

-in memory of Judith Elman.

Daniel Neson and Maia Gemmill

-in memory of Naomi Eden.

Harvey and Barbara Chertok

-in honor of Michael Chertok.

Judy Schwartz and Carolyn Pines

-in memory of Judith Elman.

Brian Jersky and Ben Bank

-in memory of Paul Jersky
and Jean Skudowitz.

George Frankel.

Donald Berger

-in memory of Rose Berger.

Laura Lowe

-in honor of the birth of
Rami Harel Kripke-Ludwig.
-in honor of the birth of
Lilah Rose Angel.

General Fund

Michele Sullivan

-in memory of Marion LeMeteyer.

Keith and Elizabeth Halperin

-in honor of Malik Bernstein.

Phyllis and George Mintzer

-in memory of Harrit Opal.
-in memory of Rose Mintzer.
-in memory of Anne Schmear.
-in memory of Joseph French.
-in memory of Al Ferrara.

James Carlson

-in honor of Nora Downs's
becoming bat mitzvah.
-in memory of Jenny Tuzzolino.

Ron Lezell

-in memory of Judith Elman.

Lea Salem

-in appreciation of all the
wonderful CSZ staff and
volunteers.

Sadie Katz

-in memory of Marvin J. Katz.

Rose Katz

-in memory of Marvin J. Katz.
-in honor of the birth of Rami
Harel Kripke-Ludwig.
-in honor of the birth of
Lilah Rose Angel.

Jean Bass MacLachlan

-in honor of Mary Jane Cavrier
MacLachlan Gieve.

Brian Jersky and Ben Bank

-in memory of Leon Boolkin.

Kalis Inclusive Liturgy Fund

Batya Kalis.

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign

Ira Hirschfield

-in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's
75th birthday.

Marc Lipschutz

-in honor of Lea Salem's eight
years of service to Sha'ar Zahav.

Alex Ingersoll and David Stein

-in honor of Rabbi Angel's
birthday.
-in honor of Rabbi Angel and
Karen Segal's anniversary.

Jeff Piade

-in honor of the birth of
Lilah Rose Angel.
-in honor of the birth of
Rami Harel Kripke-Ludwig.

Batya Kalis

-in honor of Lea Salem.

Allan Berenstein

-in memory of Judith Elman.
-in honor of Quinn Klaiman.
-in honor of Matthew Weinser.
-in honor of Lea Salem.
-in memory of Nanci Stern
and Tom Yazman.

New Pledges to the Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign

Anonymous.

Rabbi Angel's Discretionary Fund

Randy Weiss

-in memory of Tatia and
Zorah Allie May French.

Russell Norman.

**Jonathan Funk, John Arnold
and Evan**

-in honor of the birth of
Lilah Rose Angel.
-in honor of Rabbi Angel's
birthday and the Rabbi and
Karen's anniversary.

**Daniel Chesir and
Stefan Rowniak**

-in honor of Lilah Rose Angel.

Lucy Bernholz

-in memory of Eli Weinstein
and Stephan Mistler.

Ora Prochovnick

-in honor of the birth of
Lilah Rose Angel.

Dan Bellm and Rabbi Yoel Kahn
-in honor of Lilah Rose Angel.

Marc Lipschutz

-in memory of Judith Elman.

Alex Ingersoll and David Stein
-to welcome Lilah Rose Angel.

Irene Ogus

-in honor of Jeff Rubin.
-in honor of Alex Ingersoll
and David Stein.

Batya Kalis

-in honor of Lilah Rose Angel.

Sharyn Saslafsky

-in honor of the 60th anniversary
of Rabbi Julius and Mrs. Funk.

Beth and Geoff Jaeger-Skigen
-in honor of the birth of
Lilah Rose Angel.

Mark Mackler

-in honor of Lea Salem.
-in memory of Al Ferrara.

Steven Elman and Tom Holt

-in memory of Judith Elman.
-in appreciation of Rabbi Angel.

Social Action Fund

**Richard Weiner and
Susan Lubeck**

-in honor of Lilah Rose Angel.

Herman and Rosalie Rosebaum
-in memory of Judith Elman.

**Alan Michels, Laureen Kim
and Alapai Michels**

-in honor of Nora Downs's
becoming bat mitzvah.

President's Column *continued from page 3*

is also the opportunity to say hello. I hope each of you will take a moment over the next year to say goodbye to Lea the administrator and warmly greet Lea our member, with your own personal thanks for a job well done.

While Lea is truly irreplaceable, (and who would even try?) CSZ will continue to operate. I am pleased to announce that James Carlson has stepped down early as our treasurer in order to help us manage the transition in the office. We are grateful that James has agreed to move from his volunteer role to this short-term staff role. James is already working in the office, and will be there no longer than through the High Holidays. He has served as our treasurer for nearly

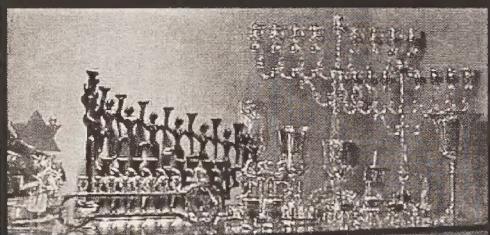
two years. During that time he has spent countless volunteer hours in the office, and is more familiar with the finances of the congregation than any other person. There are numerous upcoming synagogue events in the next couple of months, including our 25th Anniversary Service and the first ever Congregational Advance, which need immediate attention. James's deep knowledge of the congregation including our finances, members, staff and plans for the upcoming events, make him able to immediately work with and on all of the above. Please join me in welcoming James into this new role, and thanking him for his efforts at making this transition a smooth one. You will be hearing more about the next steps of our transition in the next few months.

Facelift

continued from page 3

had had a good time, built and strengthened connections between ourselves, and left something changed for the better. More importantly though, we had participated in an experience that had created a sense of hope and openness. Rose was surprised that so many people would choose to spend a Sunday fixing up her house. Her surprise became curiosity about us as people: she asked volunteers about our lives, about Sha'ar Zahav, about some of our experiences as members of the GLBT-centric community. At the end of the day Rose said, "This is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for me ... I will remember all of you. I've learned some things too."

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Many beautiful new items just arrived!

Daveners and Doers

continued from page 8

Hebrew Union College, an invested cantor, composer, musician and former member of CSZ. Jonathan will be composing music for special Friday night and Saturday morning services on June 21-22.

DS: We are hoping the community will join us for the Shabbat services and make a contribution to the Chesir-Stein Music Fund. Our biggest thrill comes from helping CSZ explore as a community how music can enrich our spiritual growth and experience.

JGF: *What do you think CSZ will be like when you celebrate your 70th birthdays?*

DC: I hope David and I are closer friends than before and that we continue to lecture each other on what to do and what needs to be done.

DS: I hope CSZ has the financial stability to have a rich program. I hope Rabbi Angel continues to have a such a fulfilling rabbinate that she will continue as our Rabbi. And I am sitting in a rocking chair next to Daniel and Paul (Cohen), recounting how we cooked up a clever plan to solve our space issues.

Members' Yahrzeits

- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 2 | Mark Feldman |
| 8 | Robert Nehemiah Mackey |
| 9 | Duff Kreitzberg |
| 14 | Mirtha Beal |
| 15 | Barry Siegel |
| 16 | Richard Rath |
| 17 | Joe Zygielbaum |
| 20 | Bill Valentine |

Dew Ewe Sea Sumthing Rong Hear?

If your answer is "YES," then the

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Reely. Wee knead ewe!

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Music Shabbaton *continued from page 1*

Ruth Rainero, José Luis Moscovich, Ellie Cohen, Steve Weitz, Jon Funk, Ruben Zellman and Susan Unger. Rabbi Angel and members of the Ritual Committee will lead services with Cantor Comisar, and David and Daniel will participate.

A special treat will be a Sunday morning lox and bagel brunch at 10 am at CSZ with Jonathan, when he will lead a workshop on Jewish Music History. If you've ever wondered what a medieval monk, the Duke of Mantua and the composer Franz Schubert have to do with Jewish music (or even if you never heard of medieval monks, the Duke of Mantua and Franz Schubert), now's your chance to explore some of the highlights of Jewish music history. Jonathan will take us on a musical journey beginning with the earliest references to music in the Bible, stopping along the way in Jerusalem during the Temple periods, medieval Spain, Renaissance Italy, the Hasidic world of niggunim, and Berlin and Vienna during the 19th century Age of Reform. This promises be an insightful and entertaining morning - including recorded musical examples and demonstrations at the piano by Jonathan, as we explore together the richness of our vast musical legacy.

Please join us for this special musical weekend!

June Anniversaries

- 2 Beth Ross and Laura Trupin
Lillian Schaechner and Ellen Weissman
- 7 Stephanie Godt and Ellen Novogrodsky
- 10 Steven Diller and Ira Johnson
Eric Temple and Garry Schermann
Frank Yellin and Mark Showalter
- 13 Dan Bellm and Yoel Kahn
- 16 Lisa Ochs and Lea Salem
- 18 Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert
- 19 Dana Vinicoff and Sarah Peterson
- 21 Liz Goodman and Ellen Lewin
Shelley M. Samuels and Robin Dubner
- 24 Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart
- 25 Shelley Adler and Nancy Showen
Sue Bojdak and Debra Yates
- 30 Ann Biderman and Kit Kennedy
Miriam Garfinkle and Julie Frank

Thanks to Lea *continued from page 1*

months after she started. His administrative assistant left as well, and Lea was on her own. "I called [past presidents] Robin Leonard and Paul Cohen at least once a day while I was figuring out what I was doing," she recalls.

Those early days were very different from the Sha'ar Zahav we know today. "I sat in a tiny, windowless office in the building on Danvers; there was no infrastructure, few staff, a shortage of space." And the challenges went beyond administrative matters. Back then, the congregation was in the throes of responding to the AIDS crisis and the death of many of our members. "Bikkur Cholim (caring for the sick) and funerals in large part set the tone for the community; it was a hard time." Lea says that she personally has had several dear friends who became sick and subsequently died, of AIDS and other illnesses, including Ron Wilmot, John Atteridge and Norma Faini-Pick.

Change and growth have been CSZ staples during the last decade and Lea has been there to see it all. She quickly runs through her list of "fives and threes": five rabbis, five presidents and five administrative assistants; three locations, three accounting programs, and a budget, staff and square footage that are now three times what they used to be. "We also have a lot more committees!" she adds.

Lea is grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from and be inspired by all the CSZ rabbis, staff and members. She says that the most rewarding thing about her time at Sha'ar Zahav has been "the opportunity to be involved in transformative experiences in people's lives; to get people connected to the synagogue, to Judaism and to one another; and to help build community." Her friends at CSZ agree that she's accomplished just that. The congregation has come to rely on her as the "go-to" person to get things done, and, even more importantly, as a catalyst for community building.

"Lea turns the synagogue into a community," says long-time CSZ educator Phyllis Mintzer. "Her endless personal support and nurturing shine a light that illuminates the way for others; Lea strengthens us all." The essence of Lea, according to member Joe Hample, is connecting people. "Mention a new idea and she immediately knows who else might be interested. She's empowered us all to take on ambitious projects and make them successful." Member Randy Weiss thanks Lea for her "commitment and loyalty to Sha'ar Zahav, her talent for bringing people together, and her genuine love for the congregation and for Judaism." He continues, "Lea always made members, and prospective members, feel welcome, valuable and vital to the community; and she always made the rest of us at Sha'ar Zahav look good!"

While Lea has decided that the time is right to pursue other professional goals, she will not be disappearing from the CSZ scene. Following a summer of travel with partner Lisa, Lea will return to San Francisco in late August and will continue to enrich our community with her friendship and her talents.

All of us at Sha'ar Zahav thank Lea for her many years of dedicated service and support, and wish her a hearty mazel tov for the future.

June

- 1 Donald Abrams
- 2 Neil Silverzweig
Nina Wouk
- 4 Hanya Barth
Ora Prochovnick
- 5 Rick Crane
Katyte Gulley
Gregory Ramos
- 6 Ma'ayan Barr Epstein
Adina Barr Epstein
Red Bennett
Marsha Blachman
- 8 Marianne Balin
Brian Besser
- 9 Barbara Becker
Lucy Cefalu
Henry Harteveldt
Laura Lowe
Glenn Shor
- 10 Claudia Bernard
Daniel Chesir
Rose Katz
- 11 Eve Cohen
Annie Winters
- 12 Susan Simpson
- 13 Rachel Pruyn Goldstein
- 14 Karen Golinski
- 15 Zachary Shelton
Steven Wiesner
- 16 Christopher Hornby-Finch
Alan Karras
Nancy Levin
Monica Levin
Shayna Prochovnick
- 17 Adam Bellm Kahn
Wayne Bender
Pieter de Haan
- 18 Danny Givertz
Susan Lubeck
Vanessa Teplin
- 19 James Cohen
Michal Goralsky
- 20 Susan Mizner
Janis Portal
Larry Wexler
- 21 Leyna Bernstein
Eileen Levy
Micah Pruyn Goldstein
Richard Sinkoff

June

- 22 Sarita Groisser
Marc Wernick
Nancy Windesheim
- 23 Deborah Agre
Louis Hirschmann
- 25 Dyan Dreisbach
Steve Weiner
- 26 Michael Baldonado
Marc Lipschutz
- 27 Amanda Littauer
- 28 Lisa Katz
- 29 Emma Buchbinder
Eve Meyer
- 30 Daryl Goldman

Naches

To Virginia Donohue, Mark Klaiman and siblings Johanna, Liam and Sydney, on the birth of Quinn Elliott Klaiman.

To Joanne, Bruce and Eli Kapsack on the birth of Asher Gabriel and Zoe Rose.

To Nicole Bloom on her acceptance to the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley for a master's in Jewish Studies.

To Nicole Bloom and Sue Swigart on their new home.

To Melanie Kushnir on her acceptance to graduate school.

Condolences

Howard Steiermann, on the death of his friend, Michael Marden.

Steve Elman, on the death of his sister, Judith Elman.

Dan Bellm and Yoel Kahn, on the death of their friend, Ursula Sherman.

Steve and Bob Nacamulli, on the death of their cousin, Leo Levi.

Florence Nacamulli, on the death of her uncle, Yitzchak Resnick.

Classifieds

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*Congregation Sha'ar Zahav appreciates your support.
If you are interested in making a contribution, please contact us at 861-6932 x308.*

Oneg & Flower Sponsorship

These generous people sponsored the Oneg and/or flowers in recent weeks:

5/10 Oneg by the CSZ congregation in honor of Lea Salem.

5/10 Flowers by the rabbis, past and present, of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, in honor of Lea Salem.

5/17 Oneg and flowers by Ann Bauman.

5/24 Flowers by Tony Harris in memory of Howard Harris.

5/24 Oneg by Seth Charney.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new member this month. A warm welcome to the most recent person to join our family:

• Vincent Williams

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new member feel welcome as he becomes an active participant in our community.